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Applicants: Amy L. Fletcher et al. Docket No.: 11,712
Serial No.: 09/444,083 Group: 3735
Filed: November 22, 1999 Examiner: Unknown
For: ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH Date: September 8, 2000
REFASTENABLE SIDE SEAMS

**Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)
Before First Office Action or Within Three Months of Filing Date**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached modified PTO Form 1449 and the copies of those documents presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience.

Applicants also wish to bring the following commonly-assigned pending patent applications to the attention of the Examiner:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/100,574 filed June 19, 1998, by L.L. Elsberg for
"DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING PASSIVE SIDE BONDS AND ADJUSTABLE
FASTENING SYSTEMS."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,632 filed November 22, 1999, by C.P. Olson for
"ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING DIFFERENTIAL STRENGTH REFASTENABLE SEAM."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,080 filed November 22, 1999, by K.I. Ratliff et al. for
"ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH GARMENT-LIKE REFASTENABLE SEAMS."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,635 filed November 22, 1999, by C.P. Olson for
"ABSORBENT ARTICLES HAVING HINGED FASTENERS."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,082 filed November 22, 1999, by C.P. Olson et al. for
"ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH NON-IRRITATING REFASTENABLE SEAMS."

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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,081 filed November 22, 1999, by S.A. Weber et al. for "ABSORBENT ARTICLES INCLUDING HIDDEN GRAPHICS."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,633 filed November 22, 1999, by C.P. Olson for "ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH SHAPED FASTENING COMPONENT."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/444,634 filed November 22, 1999, by C.P. Olson for "ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH CHILD RESISTANT REFASTENABLE SEAMS."

These applications are not listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449.

British Patent GB 2267024 is believed to be an English language equivalent of European Patent 0570980 and is being provided in lieu of a translation of EP 0570980.

European Patent EP 0641552 is believed to be an English language equivalent of Japanese Patent 07-116191 and is being provided in lieu of a translation of JP 07-116191.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.

If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-3617.

Respectfully submitted,

AMY L. FLETCHER ET AL.

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